

PRINCIPLE IN SMALL THINGS.

C. H. WETHERBE.

It is in small dealing with people generally, more than in large dealings, that Christians have practical relations with their fellows. Hence it is that one's character as a Christian is tested more largely and particularly by his conduct in relation to little businesses than it is in large affairs, with which less frequently he has to do. I generally form an opinion of one whom I have but slight acquaintance with, by the manner in which he deals with me in small things. I am liable to make some mistakes in thus judging people, yet I think it is a pretty safe rule to go by, as a general thing. I have often observed that those who show a lack of honest principles in small dealings are quite sure to show a lack of principle in large matters.

Perhaps I am an extremist, but I do maintain that a Christian ought to have so much of strict principle that when he asks a friend, by letter, to send him copies of a paper, or some other documents, he ought to also reimburse him for the postage, accompanying it with thanks for the favor. You say that this a very small matter, and so it is, but one's principles, or lack of it, is shown in just such things. I have been led to this subject by the following circumstance: A Christian lady wrote, not long ago, to a friend, asking him to please send her some programs, to be used shortly by her and her Sunday school, the programs having been used a short time before by another school. They were duly sent, yet the lady never made any acknowledgement of the favor, nor offered to pay the postage. Probably it was owing to carelessness, yet there should have been some genuine principle exhibited in the matter.

HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

D. E. RONK.

Christ says, "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there ye may be also." What a precious thought to the believer in Christ. When the mind is fully occupied in meditating upon these words, how small the pleasures of this world are compared to the glory that shall be revealed to us in the great day of the Lord. Shall we come with rejoicing, laying our sheaves at the feet of the Master, or shall we come empty handed? Are we glad to do everything

we find to do that would be a glory to the cause of Christ? If not we can hardly expect to be counted as one of the number that came up through great tribulation and have their robes washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.

A great many people seem by their actions to think Christ will save them anyway, that they never did anything very bad. Did they ever do anything very good? They have shown by their actions they are ashamed of Christ. You never hear them confessing Christ as their Savior or speak a word for him in the prayer meeting, if you even see them there. How then can a person of this description expect Christ to recognize him. After we do all we can by devoting our whole life to Christ we are then not saved by our good works but by the love Christ has for us.

I Peter 4:18 says: "If the righteous scarcely be saved where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Let us ask for more wisdom to understand the great truths that lie hidden under the lids of our Bibles that require our diligent searching to find.

Daniel says: "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

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King's Children.

ENDURING HARDSHIPS FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.—Heb. 12:1-13.

(A Missiourary Topic)

Topic October 10.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Bricks without straw. Ex. 5:1-14.
T. Job. Job 19:20-27.
W. The apostles. I Cor. 4:6-13.
T. Joy in hardship. II Cor. 7:1-16.
F. From great tribulation. Rev. 7:11-17.
S. Endure hardships. II Tim. 2:1-13.

The tendency of weak human nature is to drift into habits of ease. This tendency has gone so far that a vast host of Christians far from "resisting unto blood," Heb. 12:4, are unwilling to make the smaller sacrifice required in giving up evil habits and consecrating themselves and their money as required. Rom. 12:1; Luke 14:33. We take our standard very much from one another and thus it is lowered. It is good that in this lesson we should see some of the hard things we must expect if we prove worthy of the kingdom. The leader should see that the reference teachings are "rubbed in."

SOME HARDSHIPS WE MUST EXPECT.

1. Crucifying the flesh. Gal. 5:24. 2. Persecution of the world. John 15:19-21. 3. Oppression of the evil one. Eph. 6:12. 4. Renouncing all. Matt. 10:36-39; Luke 14:33. 5.

A great work. Matt. 28:19. 6. Disappointment. II Cor. 12:7, 8; II Tim. 4:10. 7. Being misunderstood. Luke 19:42.

THE VALUE OF HARDSHIPS.

1. They prove one's faith. I Cor. 11:19; II Tim. 2:3, 4. 2. They develop virtues. Rom. 5:3, 6; II Cor. 4:16-18. 3. They teach lessons. Ps. 119:67, 71. 4. They reveal to us our strength or weakness. Luke 22:31, 32. 5. They help us keep humble. II Cor. 12:7. 6. They train us for the kingdom. Acts 14:22; Rev. 7:14.

HOW TO BEAR THEM.

1. Patiently. I Cor. 4:10-14. 2. Trusting. Rom. 8:28. 3. Persevering. Heb. 12:1, 2. 4. Put on the whole armor. Eph. 6:11-13. 5. Live simply. I Cor. 9:25. 6. Have good habits. Heb. 12:13; Dan. 6:10. 7. Look to Jesus. II Cor. 2:14.

The Golden Text of this lesson is I Cor. 9:13 R. V. last clause.

SONGS TO SING.

Am I a soldier of the cross. Yield not to temptation. Labor on. What a friend we have in Jesus. Faith is the victory. I gave my life for thee. Take my life and let it be. I want to be a worker. Stand up, stand up for Jesus.

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING IN THE MEETING.

1. What is your greatest trial?
2. What good way have you found of enduring hardness?
3. How is Christ our burden bearer?
4. How can the strong help the weak?
5. What are some things we are failing to do? Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 16:2; Heb. 12:14, etc.
6. How can we bear the hardships of the common round of duty. I Cor. 7:24.

NOTES.

If Christianity meant simply being good, any doll baby could be one.

The true soldier is seen not in parade, but in battle.

As Brother Barth of Chicago says, "a soldier must expect the enemy to shoot at him, and not say, it ain't fair. If you treat me like that I'll go home."

There is no hardship to the one who works through love.

Among the sayings of Christ not recorded in the Bible is this: "Except ye fast to the world ye shall not enter the kingdom."

"The flesh lusteth against the spirit" and we cannot indulge the flesh with ease of luxuries or tobacco without to that extent destroying the spiritual.

We cannot evangelize the world by staying at home and embezzling the Lord's money.

"Ye are the salt of the earth." Salt to be of any value must be rubbed into something to keep it from rotting.

I am glad we don't sing so much any more, "O land of rest for thee I sigh." "When I can read my title clear," etc. It is a selfish, lazy spirit. The new songs are better. "I'll live for him." "Onward Christian Soldier," etc.

To the leader.—This is a big topic. Do not lose a moment by letting the meeting drag. Try to inspire all to more heroic service.

The best expounder of difficult truths is the practice of the plain.